

Summative Reflection:

PLE: I used Symbaloo, and found that it was accessible in its simple design. It's accessibility led to improved overall organization for my project, which made the entire researching process much easier.

RSS feed: Personally, I thought it was confusing and unnecessary. There was a surplus of information and I felt intimidated whenever I used it to collect sources.

Scoop It: Scoop It was very convenient, displaying many sources in a small dose for me to choose from.

Videos/Interviews/Documentaries: In my opinion, documentaries, interviews, and videos in general should be optional. In many cases, including my own, a topic just didn't lend itself to these sources.

Audios: Audio sources seemed unnecessary. My topic only benefitted from articles and books, and audio sources were completely unhelpful to my project.

Wikispace: Wikispace was brilliant. The neat, single source of all my work completely avoided the chaotic mess of handing in all of those papers.

Wordpress: The thoughtful blog was a nice touch, benefitting my final project greatly. Not only did it provide an update on my progress, it also aided me in realizing and contemplating flaws as I progressed.

To what extent did this type of learning (completely student-centered with teacher as facilitator rather than focus; self-guided; choice-based) result in a meaningful learning experience for you? Please explain.

This type of learning was extremely refreshing. It might be my personal learning style, but I found that, by teaching myself information that I chose to learn about. I felt fully invested in the topic. Of course, this self-centered approach is flawed when conflicts arise and assistance is needed, but I think it was very fitting for conducting a research project.

Remember that we fully understand the limitations and stress that came as a result of trying to do this project in so little time at the end of the year. We appreciate your willingness and your enthusiasm, and we even appreciate your candor in evaluating the process. That being said, what suggestions can you make that will help us refine this assignment for future students. What did you like best? What did you not like? {We know more time, and not at the end of the year; you don't need to tell us that!}

I enjoyed the concept of PLE, since the many different resources on the internet were confined to a single space that I could organize quickly. Additionally, I enjoyed using Wordpress and having that occasional update act as a measure of pace to keep me on track. Wikispaces was convenient in that, by looking back at my questions and mind map, I was able to refine my research early and remind myself to focus my research from time to time. As far as dislikes, I thought the documentaries and interviews were unnecessary. I would suggest making those sources optional, depending on how applicable a source is to a certain topic. In regards to RSS feeds, in my opinion, Scoop It accomplished the same goal as an RSS feed in that it provided me with applicable sources, but they were more specific and helpful to my topic.